which is expected to be a vehicle of urban sector reforms as envisaged by the Constitution (74th) Amendment Act. Given the overall size of the resources available for the Ninth Plan and other equally pressing commitments, the Domestic Budget Support (DBS) for the Department of Urban Development, inclusive of the allocation for the Mega City Scheme, has been projected at Rs. 2000 crore (at 1996-97 prices) as against the budget estimates of Rs. 866.01 cr. (at 1991-92 price) in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Financial Position of States

2400. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present financial position of State Governments was considered in the meeting of the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has projected the current revenue of States in the Ninth Five Year Plan period is likely to be Rs. 64,000 crores less than projected by a working group of the Commission;

(d) if so, whether both the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry have urged the States to restrict expenditure and explore new avenues of resources mobilisation; and

(e) to what extent the State Governments have agreed on the suggestions made by the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (e) The estimates of financial resources of the States for their Ninth Five Year Plan were considered by the Planning Commission in its meeting held on 9th June, 1997. In that meeting the Commission took note of the States Own Resources for their Ninth Plan as estimated at Rs. 1.89,612 crore by the Working Group on States Resources for the Ninth Five Year Plan. Also the Commission noted that on the basis of subsequent official level discussions with each State, these estimates of resources came down substantially to Rs. 1,31,880 crore. This was mainly because of sharp decrease in the estimate of balance from current revenues to the tune of about Rs. 64,000 crore. However, this has been partially made up through higher borrowings estimated by the States. The States were impressed upon the need for higher resources mobilization. Subsequently the resources estimates have improved to a substantially higher level due to commitments made by Chief Ministers for additional resources mobilization during the course of their discussions with Deputy Chairman for finalization of Ninth Plan outlay.

[Translation]

Vacant Post of Presiding Officers in Labour Courts

2401. SHRI N.J. RATHWA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts of Presiding officers in Labour Courts are lying vacant in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise as on date and the dates since when these posts are lying vacant and the number of reserved posts for SC/ST out of them; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Central Government has set up 12 Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts for adjudication of industrial disputes for which they are the appropriate Govt. under the Industrial Disputes Act. All the presiding Officers are in position except in Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts at Chandigarh, Jaipur and No. 2, Dhanbad. While after selecting a candidate, proposal has already been sent to Appointment Committee of Cabinet (A.C.C.) for approval for Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court (CGIT-CUM-LC) No. 2, Dhanbad, selection of Candidates for appointment as Presiding Officers, CGIT-cum-Labour Courts, Chandigarh and Jaipur are under way. Posts of Presiding Officers are filled up on deputation basis and selection is made by inviting applications from eligible judicial officers. As such, the question of reservation of post for SC/ST candidates does not arise.

[English]

Training to Indian Diplomats

2402. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to train Indian diplomats, posted abroad in different missions;